

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

As will be appreciated by those having ordinary skill in the art, the current driver 14 is operably connected to a conventional power supply (not ~~show~~shown) for supplying electrical current to the stepper motor 12. In turn, the power supply can be operably connected to an alternating voltage source (e.g., a conventional 120 VAC wall socket), a battery, or the like.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 17 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Generally, the memory 18 provides the motor ~~controller 26~~controller 16 with data for characterizing the load torque throughout the pumping cycle. In particular, the memory 18 includes data corresponding to the amount of electrical current that the stepper motor 12 should receive based on one or more variables or factors. As described below, these variables or factors can include temperature, backpressure, motor position, and operating duration. Accordingly, the motor controller receives information or data regarding the variables, the motor controller then compares or processes the received information with the data provided by the memory 18, and then generates a corresponding motor drive signal 30 for operating the stepper motor 12.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 24 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The clock 26 provides the motor ~~controller 26~~controller 16 with information or data for indicating or measuring time. As will be appreciated by those having ordinary skill in the art, the elastic recovery properties of the IV tubing decrease as the tubing is repeatedly deformed by the infusion pump during intravenous medication delivery. Thus, the tubing is easier for the infusion pump to manipulate over time. However, the energy efficiency of stepper motors typically decreases as the motors age.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 14 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Next, at step 220, similar to step 110 of FIGURE 2, a position in the pump cycle is determined. Next, at step 230, an electrical current value is determined based on two parameters. The first parameter is the position in the pump cycle as determined in ~~step 240~~step 220. The second parameter is the flow rate determined in step 210. In one exemplary embodiment, the position in the pump cycle is retrieved from a database table stored in a computer or system memory.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Next, at decision step 360, a determination is made whether to modify the electrical current value to account for any changes in torque due to age-related factors such as increases or decreases in friction, tolerances, and the like. These age ~~factor~~factors can, if desired, be tailored to the unique manufacturer of the motor. Moreover, any electrical current modification values as discussed above can include a taking into account of the unique characteristics of the motor such as manufacturer and motor specifications.